

# The Age of Insurance for Farmers

W. H. FAIRFIELD, M.S.

LEITH, EXPERIMENTAL, VETERINARY, EXPERIMENTAL, VETERINARY, LEITH,  
LEITH, VETERINARY

And Views of Our  
**Clergymen, Doctors and  
Settlers**

THE CANADIAN NORTHWEST  
IRRIGATION COMPANY

LETHBRIDGE, ALBERTA, CANADA

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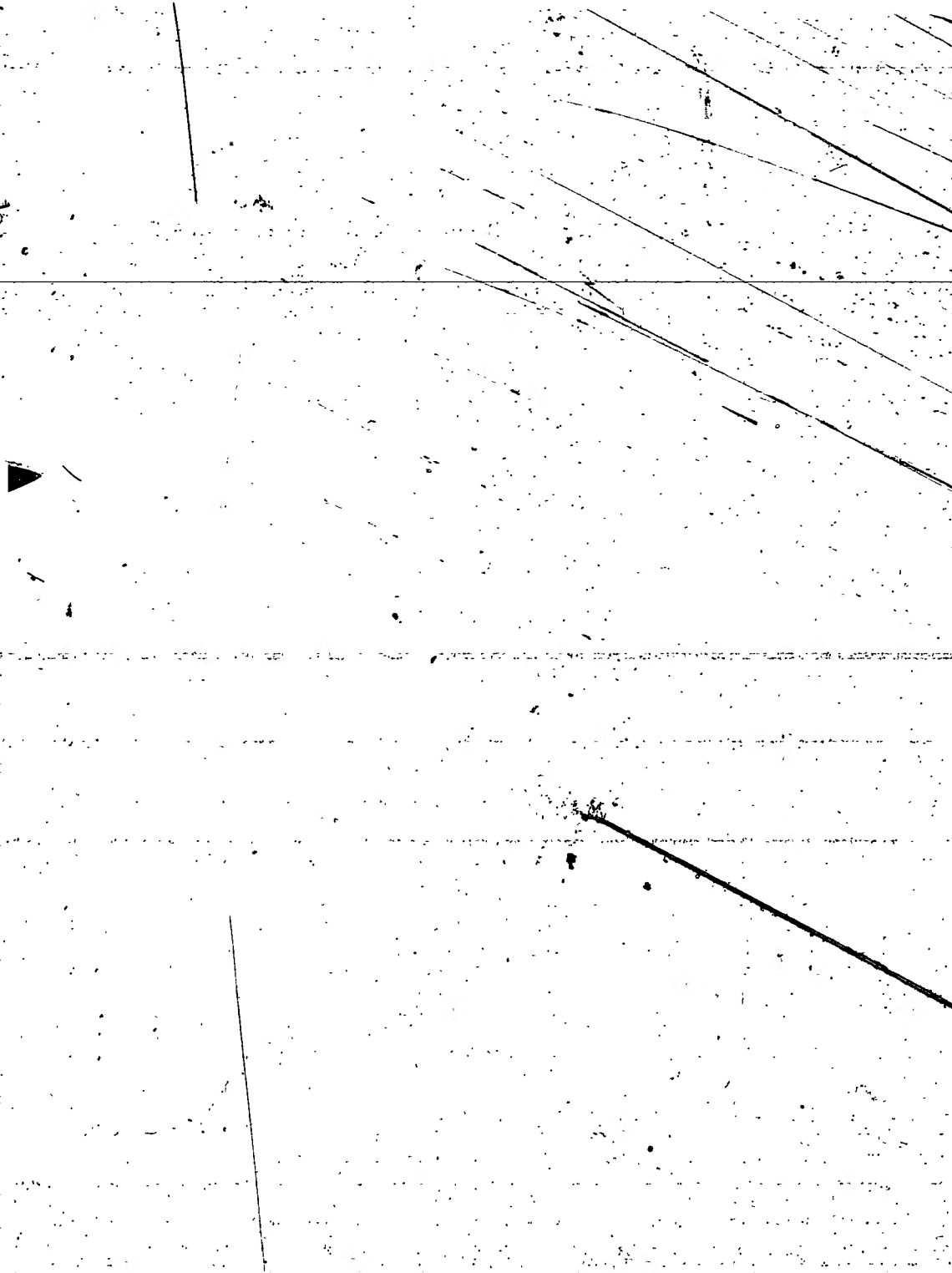


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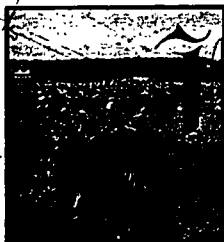
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An Irrigated Garden



# The Age of Insurance for Farmers



INSURANCE is comparatively a young institution. Its growth in the last thirty years of the century, just closed, is marvellous. We insure our houses. We insure their contents. We insure our lives. It is an institution that has crept into all classes of business until today we find consistent effort being put forth to work out some method of forecasting the anticipated results of every enterprise in which man embarks.

The farmer is not behind the van. He, too, looks for an assured crop and irrigation is his method of insuring the same.

Irrigation is by no means new in the science of agriculture. It is as old as the oldest civilization of the old world, but the beginning of the practice in the Rocky Mountain States, by the Caucasian race at least, is comparatively recent. It has long passed the experimental stage. Speaking generally all crops raised from Montana to New Mexico and from Colorado to California are raised under irrigation. It has been found to be so well adapted to farming, as practised in the Western States, that wherever a good irrigation system has been established land values have risen rapidly.

Competition is so keen in the business of farming that to make it successful the farmer has to avail himself of every advantage possible. If by a slight additional expense he can insure his crops against a loss by drouth

he shows wise forehandedness similar to the sea merchant who goes to the expense of insuring his cargo before leaving port.

The vicissitudes of the farmer are many, but principal and most dreaded of them all is drouth. If this uncertain factor could be eliminated many a careworn wrinkle in the brow of the farmer would be smoothed out. How often it is the case that after experiencing two or three years of plenty during which time his barns and grain bins are full and his purse never empty, there comes a year of drouth. His crops are a failure. He is out not only his own labor, but the expense of his hired help. The net profits derived from the two or three good crops are eaten up in the one year of drouth. How different would be his condition if, by the use of irrigation he could avoid the calamity of a total, or even partial, loss, and instead of having to draw on his past earnings to bridge him over, he could not only leave them untouched but could add the usual amount to them. Not only does irrigation as practiced in an arid climate insure against drouth, but also against damage due to excessive rains. Often in the best farming districts of the east fine crops are seriously damaged by continuous rains. Even after the crop is made much inconvenience and sometimes material loss is sustained in harvesting. In an irrigated region this is not the case for it is the exception to have sufficient rain to interfere with harvest operations while crops are being gathered.

It has been stated above that wherever a good irrigation system has been established the value of farm land has appreciated rapidly. This is due in great measure to the fact that the average crop from year to year is better than in districts where the rainfall alone is depended on, with their consequent years of drouth which bring down the average.

Statistics are not usually very interesting reading matter, but perhaps the following brief table will not be out of place as it puts some facts in small space and allows the eye to make ready comparison.

We have selected Montana, the state in the irrigated belt which lies nearest to Alberta—the town of Magrath in the new irrigated district is but thirty miles from the boundary—and have taken the average yield per acre for the last ten years of wheat, oats, barley and potatoes, and compared

it with the average yield obtained during the same period in the unirrigated states joining Montana on the eastward. The states used for comparison are conceded to be among the richest, if they are not the richest, agricultural states in the Union. Some small areas in Montana may be cultivated without irrigation, but these are very limited.

**Table giving Average Yields per acre in each State for the Years 1891 to 1900 inclusive.**

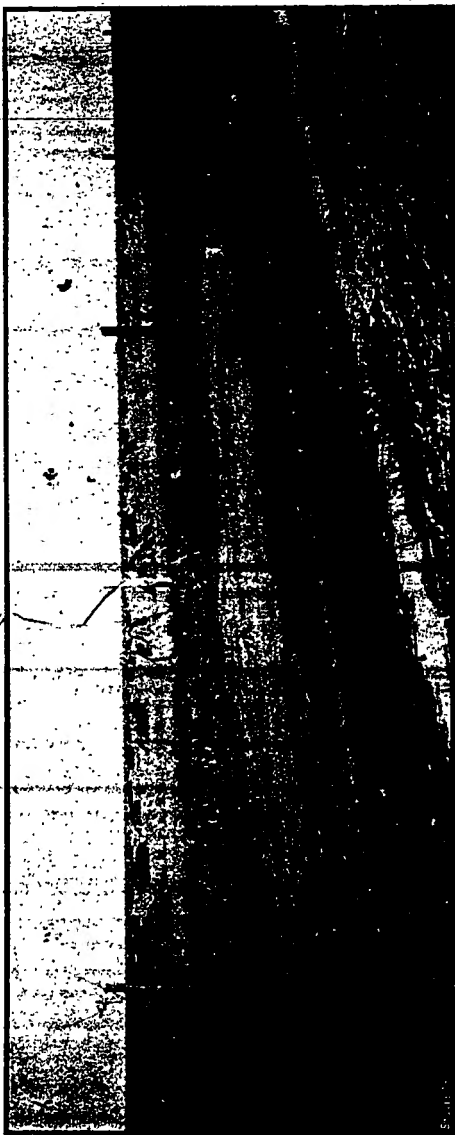
STATE	WHEAT	OATS	BARLEY	POTATOES
	BUSHEL	BUSHEL	BUSHEL	BUSHEL
Montana	25.3	38.4	31.3	123
North Dakota	12.7	25.6	21.7	90
South Dakota	10.4	23.7	21.0	71
Minnesota	14.2	30.9	26.2	89
Wisconsin	14.5	32.9	27.4	87
Michigan	14.1	29.7	22.0	86
Illinois	13.2	31.5	24.1	72
Iowa	14.7	31.7	24.3	76
Nebraska	12.2	24.8	20.8	66

Montana bounds Alberta on the south. Irrigation is practised in this state, while it is not practised in the states used for comparison, although they rank among the richest agricultural states of the Union.

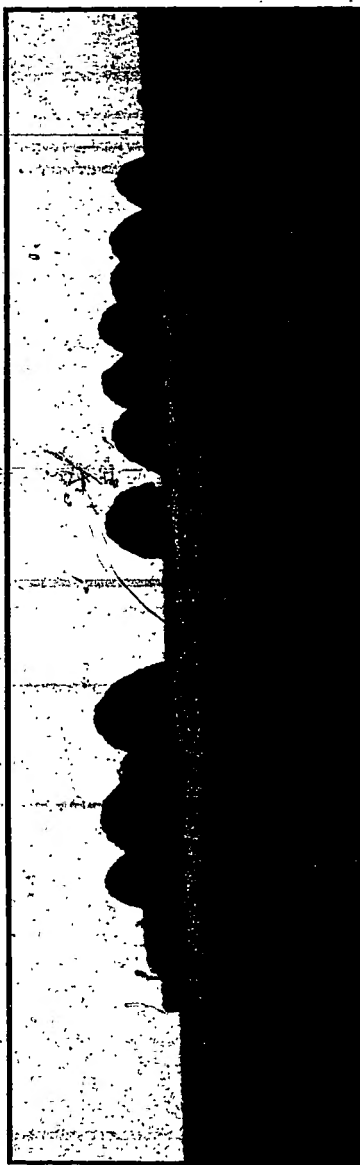
From the table it will be very readily seen that the average annual yields for the past ten years of the four crops given is very much greater in the irrigated state of Montana than in the unirrigated states to which it is compared.

Let us analyze the table a little. The average annual yield of wheat in Montana for the past decade has been 25.3 bushels. Of the eight states compared Iowa has the highest average yield, being 14.7 bushels, a difference of 10.6 bushels. In other words, the Montana farmer who insured his

The table is compiled from statistical matter given in the Year Book of the United States Department of Agriculture for 1900, pages 782 to 801.



Wheat and Water—Valuable Assets.



The Crown of the Season's Work.



crops by irrigation secured by so doing an increase in crop of nearly 11 bushels each year over the best of eight sister states which were not blessed with irrigation. A comparison of the yields in oats, barley and potatoes will give similar results. This table in itself is as strong an advocacy of irrigation as one could well ask for.

Not only is a farmer assured of a larger average yield in an irrigated district because he need fear neither drouth nor the evils of too much moisture, but he is assured that his produce will be of high quality. This is well illustrated by the fact that when the judges at the World's Fair at Chicago began judging the small grains exhibited from all parts of the world they were compelled to make the distinction between grain grown with irrigation and that not grown with irrigation, because the latter was so much inferior to the former.

The bright, progressive farmer who wishes to be at the top of his profession (for farming is surely worthy of the title of profession) and who wishes to make the most money in the surest way out of the farm should by all means look into the subject of irrigation as it is another step toward intensive or systematic farming. He should look up the districts where it is practiced and obtain reliable information in regard to the resulting crops.

Southern Alberta has an arid, or to be more exact, a semi-arid climate. The growing season is long as compared to Manitoba. Her mild open winters make it possible to extend farm operations late in the fall and to begin them early in the spring. Her soil is deep and extremely fertile. The land generally has but a gentle slope and the surface is smooth; consequently it is admirably adapted to irrigation in that the water can be supplied to or spread over the land at a minimum cost in labor to the farmer. This district is destined to have a bright future owing to its advantages of soil, climate, adaptability to irrigation, abundance of water, nearness to market and its railroad facilities.

W. H. FAIRFIELD, M.S.

Late Superintendent Wyoming Experimental Station Farm,  
Laramie, Wyoming.

**GRAIN SOWING IN WINTER**

(Telegram.)

Stirling, Alta, March 7th, 1901.

The Canadian North West Irrigation Company,  
Lethbridge, Alberta.

Mr. Romeril planted ten acres of wheat on February twenty-eighth.  
Ground was plowed last fall.

(Sgd.)

THEO. BRANDLEY.

**What Our Clergymen Think**

Lethbridge, Alberta, Sept. 3rd, 1901.

The Canadian North West Irrigation Company,  
Lethbridge, Alberta.

GENTLEMEN :

Having known and visited this place before Lethbridge was; when it was known by the name of Coal Banks, and its inhabitants were only some two dozen of coal miners, I have been in a position to observe its specific advantages.

The climate of Southern Alberta is very fine; the air the purest; the cool breezes in summer, the warm Chinook winds in winter make Lethbridge a health-seeker's resort to sufferers of lung diseases. Our soil is rich, but our great disadvantage was the scarcity of rain in summer. How often we exclaimed in the past : "If only we had water !!"

Old timers especially perceive now the happy change and hail the ad-

vent of our water system. Now any kind of grain and vegetable can be raised, and, before long, I hope, we will have an abundance of fruit.

Being an amateur with flowers, shrubs and trees, I planted a few many years ago, but haying to purchase the water by the barrel, I barely kept them alive. I do not hesitate to say that this season, the first we enjoy the water system, my trees have grown already as much as during three of the previous years.

My sincere desire is to see many Catholic families take up our irrigated lands. The fact that there is a Catholic church with a priest permanently residing in Lethbridge, besides a first class convent school for boys and girls, should be, indeed, an inducement to them.

FATHER VAN TICHEM, O.M.I.,  
Catholic Priest.

Lethbridge, Alberta, Sept. 4th, 1901.

The Canadian North West Irrigation Company,  
Lethbridge, Alberta.

GENTLEMEN :

Having been for over fifteen years a resident in this district, and having had special opportunities of knowing the country, I have no hesitation in saying that in my opinion no other portion of the Dominion offers greater opportunities to the home-seeker for securing comfort in a short space of time. Stock-raisers praise it for its rich grazing areas, and its short and mild winter allowing cattle and horses to roam over the prairies all the year round. Agriculturalists like it for its rich and enduring soil, producing abundantly the standard grains, grasses, and vegetables. The workman on the ranch, the farm, and in the mine, flock to it, for work is abundant and wages good. Parents are delighted with it, for the climate is healthy, schools are good, and churches everywhere. The Chinook wind blows frequently, and to it chiefly are we indebted for our short and mild winters and our stock covered prairies. The partial aridness of the climate has resulted in bringing vast areas of fertile soil under irrigation, thus making the farmer master of his own rainfall, and practically independent of the clouds. This is a great country with a great future.

CHAS. McKILLOP, B.A.,  
Presbyterian Minister.



He Fears No Drouth.

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The Rectory, Lethbridge, 9th August, 1901.

The Canadian North West Irrigation Company,

Lethbridge, Alberta.

GENTLEMEN :

It gives me very great pleasure to have the opportunity of making known to future settlers some of the advantages of our position in Southern Alberta. Being myself an enthusiast in horticultural pursuits, with an experience which covers both the time before irrigation and the present, I have no hesitation in saying that water alone was required to make perfect conditions of success. Through the summer season the long hours of daylight characteristic of the country, produce an extraordinary rapidity of growth, and consequent early maturity. With the mild winters due to the western winds, it will be possible in the future to grow many varieties of fruits, etc., which will not endure the colder climate of other parts. To a small extent this has been already done. Apples, cherries, raspberries have survived the winter, and produced fair crops of fruit. The cool and refreshing nights are a great feature of the summer. However great the heat of the day the night always affords the possibility of cool repose.

Lethbridge is amply supplied with both churches and schools, affording ecclesiastical and educational facilities to satisfy the most fastidious.

In conclusion I would like to say, and feel happy that I am able to say, that the municipal morality, and the social virtues of our citizens are far above the average.

Yours very truly,

W. RIDLEY BEAL.

Methodist Parsonage, Lethbridge, Alta., Nov. 5th, 1901.

The Canadian North West Irrigation Company,

Lethbridge, Alberta.

GENTLEMEN :

Before the completion of your Irrigation Canal the verdict passed upon this country by those in a position to judge was : " Fine soil, fine climate but, uncertain rain supply." Under these circumstances the un-

certainty of harvesting a crop made farming too great a risk. With the advent of irrigation all this is changed. Now every man may be his own rain-maker. If to labor is to pray this is the most effective prayer for rain that I know of. Those who have worked in irrigated districts tell me they would not now care to work in countries dependent on the rainfall for there is not only risk of drouth but they may have too much of a good thing and too much rain is, in its way, as bad as too little.

Pluck and honest work will win a competency in this country. A little capital is not a bad thing, but the proximity of the coal mines makes that less needful here than in most places, for by working in the mines during winter a man may not only husband his resources but add to them.

The opening is excellent, but it seems to me advisable for those seeking a home to take advantage of it speedily for what with the pressure in the older countries, in the East, and even to the South of us in the Western States, it will not be long before the better places in our North West are taken up.

Yours sincerely,

T. JACKSON WRAY.

Edgehill Farm, Lethbridge, Aug. 6th, 1901.

The Canadian North West Irrigation Company,  
Lethbridge, Alberta.

GENTLEMEN :

With its magnificent climate, both in summer and winter, no malaria or other dread foe, but so beneficial to those of weak lungs and to all, and withal so pleasant; with its rich soil, bearing good crops, even with spring breaking of the virgin sod; with its irrigation works and the favorable double slope of the land for making use of it; with a fine school system, churches of the leading denominations, and the safety of property and person assured; with the best domestic coal cheap; with prospects for good

markets; and with the opportunity for investing savings in the remunerative range cattle business, I do not know any reason why the district about Lethbridge should not be a very favorable place for farmers to settle. I consider it one of the best opportunities that has been offered for years. I speak from experience of the quality of the land and its ability to grow good crops from spring breaking, for I am living on a farm on "the ditch" and before me lies a pretty piece of wheat; while not far away I have a fine field of oats, both on ground broken this spring.

G. J. COULTER WHITE,  
Baptist Minister.



## What Our Doctors Think

Lethbridge, Alta., Oct. 26th, 1901.

Messrs. The Canadian North West Irrigation Company,  
Lethbridge, Alberta.

GENTLEMEN:

Speaking of the climate of Southern Alberta in relation to health I take pleasure in submitting the following, based upon fifteen years' medical experience:

Given a light, dry atmosphere, a dry, quick absorbing soil, a small rainfall, moderate elevation above the sea level, a great amount of sunshine and you have the essentials of a health giving climate. Such essentials the climate of Southern Alberta possesses in a marked degree.

Physicians who have practiced in Southern Alberta are impressed by the following facts:

1. That acute lung troubles, such as pneumonia and bronchitis are rare.
2. That very few, if any, cases of consumption develop within the country, while great improvements and cures result in such cases brought into the country.

Method of Distributing Water.



3. That the infectious diseases of childhood, when they do occur, are of a mild type and are very amenable to treatment.
  4. That typhoid fever in all its varied forms is generally absent.
- Such facts go to prove the healthfulness of the climate without question.

Yours truly,

F. H. MEWBURN, M.D.

Lethbridge, Alta., Oct. 26th, 1901.

Messrs. The Canadian North West Irrigation Company,  
Lethbridge, Alberta.

GENTLEMEN :

In writing my impression of this part of Alberta, of its climatic conditions and of their bearing upon the health of the residents I shall avoid medical terms and expressions.

We possess a climate, which for pureness and dryness of atmosphere, mildness of winters, sudden changes, rapid rise and fall in temperature, especially during the winter months, freedom from early frosts, and large percentage of days of sunshine is not to be excelled in any part of the globe.

To an European or to a resident of the East, accustomed as he is in his moist climate, to find rapid rise and fall in temperature pregnant with colds, influenzas and other lung affections, our sudden changes would seem alarming. He has but to dwell here to prove his fears groundless—the dryness of the atmosphere rendering such changes harmless.

The intending settler may naturally ask what the prevailing diseases are. To him I would say we have none. We of course meet cases of nearly all the diseases that flesh is heir to. They are occasional, however, and are of very mild type.

As to lung diseases : Consumption, that scourge of Europe and of the East, is an almost unknown quantity. In a practice extending over a period of twenty years in Southern Alberta I can recall but three deaths from this cause. On the other hand I can cite a number of cases of those given but a year or so to live in the East, who, on removing to Alberta, have become hale

and hearty. We occasionally have cases of pneumonia, but they are mild in character. Bronchitis and pleurisy are rare.

As to fevers: Typhus and malaria are unknown. Typhoid is infrequent and extremely mild in nature.

As to contagious diseases: We have our share of these with the rest of the world. They are, however, light in character, easily controlled and tend to recovery.

Our considerable altitude and the consequent stimulation of heart action from such elevation would not make the country a desirable one for people from lower altitudes troubled with serious heart affections.

In conclusion, I would say that our altitude, pureness and dryness of air and the large number of sunny days render Southern Alberta the ideal location for the consumptive, provided the disease be not in too far advanced a stage. My experience has proven to me beyond a doubt that were it not for the surgery incidental to a mining town and ranching district, together with that crop that never fails, we members of the medical profession in Southern Alberta, would eke out but a scanty subsistence.

Yours truly,

L. G. DEVEBER, M.D.

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Lethbridge, Alta., Oct. 26th, 1901.

Messrs. The Canadian North West Irrigation Company,  
Lethbridge, Alberta.

GENTLEMEN:

The climatic influences of a country must necessarily be a feature of first importance to a home-seeker. In this respect the district of Southern Alberta possesses very many advantages, the principal ones being the rarity of its air, conferred by its altitude, its comparative dryness and its Chinook winds.

The thinness of the air makes more rapid breathing necessary and this combined with its dryness gives it a distinct value in the prevention and cure of many diseases of the respiratory system, principal among which is tuberculosis. No one who has been a resident of the district for any reason-

able time can fail to have seen most remarkable cures of bad cases and lesser ones are daily passing unnoticed among us.

Sufferers from asthma brought on by cold, moist conditions of the air are enabled to live here in comfort and frequently they entirely cease to have their customary attacks.

To none, however, do the pure air and abundant sunshine appeal so strongly as to those in vigorous health. The influence of their exhilarating properties are very markedly seen both in work and in recreation.

Yours sincerely,

W. S. GALBRAITH, M.D.



## What Our Settlers Think

Lethbridge, Alta., Oct. 5th. 1901.

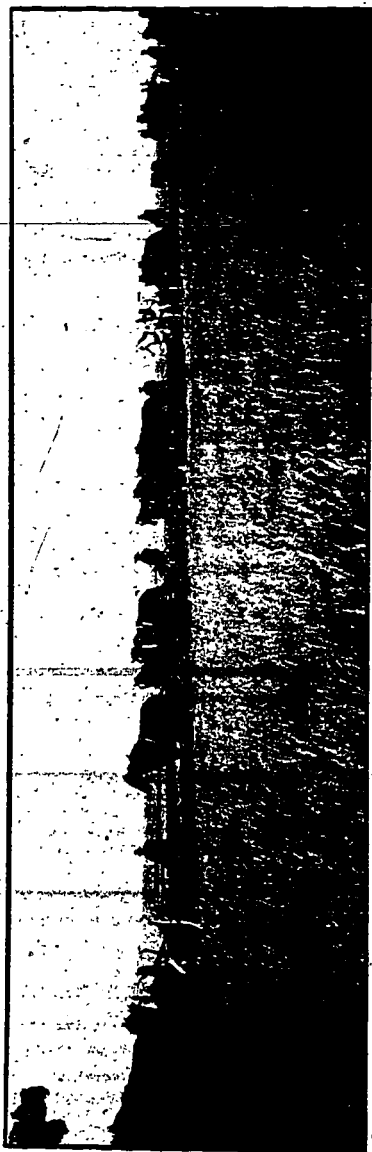
Messrs. The Canadian North West Irrigation Company,  
Lethbridge, Alberta.

GENTLEMEN :

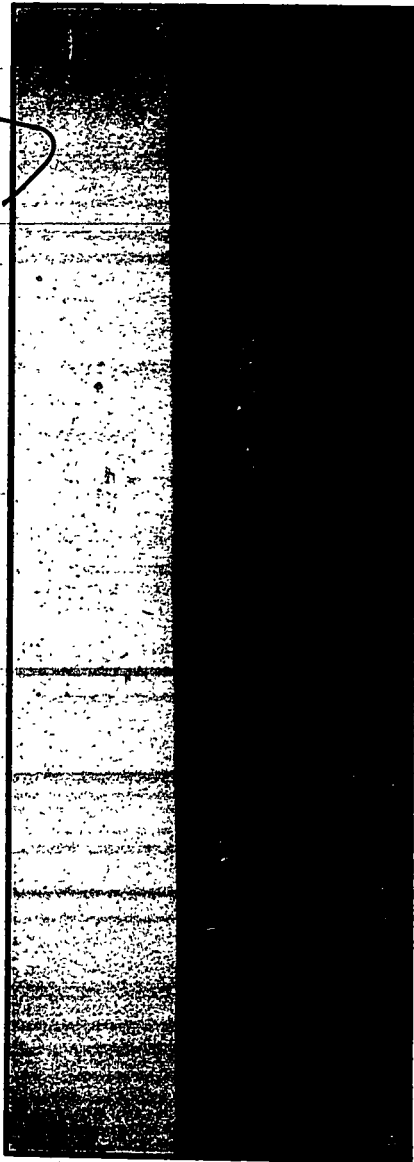
We came to the North West several years ago from farms in the vicinity of Kingston, Ontario, and have taken up a quarter section of irrigated land. We have taken off one crop, about seventy-five acres in all, and have threshed forty bushels to the acre of oats and thirty-five of spring wheat and have picked a large crop of excellent potatoes. None of our land was broken before May 1st and the yield would have been larger if the crop had been put in earlier.

Owing to press of work in building and fencing we were unable to avail ourselves to the fullest extent of the benefits from irrigation. At the same time our experience is that the crops irrigated yield at least one-third more than can be got from lands in districts where the natural rainfall is usually considered sufficient for cultivated crops.

We sowed twenty acres of millet on June 20th which yielded a ton to the acre. Our potatoes were the largest and best we have ever seen. We



Eighty Teams Preparing Beet Lands for New Sugar Factory.



A Bountiful Harvest.

have never had as good returns for our labor on land as we have had this year, even on the sod. There is nothing to do but stick in the plow; there are no rocks and the land is loose and mellow.

Yours sincerely,

HYSSOP BROS.

Stirling, Alta., Oct. 5th, 1901.

Messrs. The Canadian North West Irrigation Company,  
Lethbridge, Alberta.

GENTLEMEN :

I came to Stirling from Utah two years ago to earn a farm and home by working on the irrigation canal. I put in twenty acres of crop the second year on sod, consisting of wheat, oats and vegetables, and was satisfied with the results.

This year we had twenty-five acres of crop and got a yield of twenty-six bushels per acre of wheat and fifty-six of oats.

Have given most attention to potatoes and other garden stuffs and find the land pre-eminently suited to these. Potatoes, beets, carrots, onions and cabbage are excellent. We have raised about five thousand pounds of fine onions from half an acre and these are worth from three to five cents a pound. The best of sugar beets can be grown and we expect large profits from growing these for the beet sugar factory about to be constructed near us.

All kinds of small fruits have already done well with us and we hope for equally good results from apples, pears and plums as soon as the trees are old enough to bear. The fruit trees have passed the winters without any damage whatever since being planted two years ago.

The climate is not dry, but only semi-dry. In some years very little irrigation is required for grain and the expense of irrigation is very slight. Some of our grain crops have been grown without any irrigation, but having water available ensures a first class crop.

Irrigation is going to be of the highest service to our meadows. Timothy grows well and so do brome grass and Italian rye grass and the market for cultivated hay is good. Tame hay is worth from ten to fifteen

dollars a ton. The ease with which the land is broken and worked taken along with the heavy crops and good market for all kinds of farm produce makes this a good place for anyone to settle who wishes to work on land. The climate is extremely healthy and exhilarating and I am well pleased with the country in every respect.

Yours respectfully,

F. D. GRANT.

Magrath, Alta., Sept. 30th, 1901.

Messrs. The Canadian North West Irrigation Company,

Lethbridge, Alberta.

GENTLEMEN:

Have been engaged in the sheep business in Southern Alberta for some years, but latterly have been working land under the irrigation canal constructed by your Company. I consider this an excellent place for a settler to make a start. The soil is highly productive, is easily worked and is easily irrigated. On forty-six acres cropped the first year out of sod we raised twenty-six bushels of wheat and fifty of oats to the acre. Our wheat this year on second year land went thirty-five bushels to the acre and our oats partly on sod and partly on land previously cropped averaged fifty-four bushels to the acre.

We grew ten acres of alfalfa this year. It was sown without a nurse crop and we have cut half a ton to the acre from it this season already. It is expected to yield two heavy crops of hay next season.

Our potatoes are large and mealy and other vegetables are equally good.

My experience in this locality extends over a period of nine years, and I know of no country where the same opportunities exist for settlers of limited means.

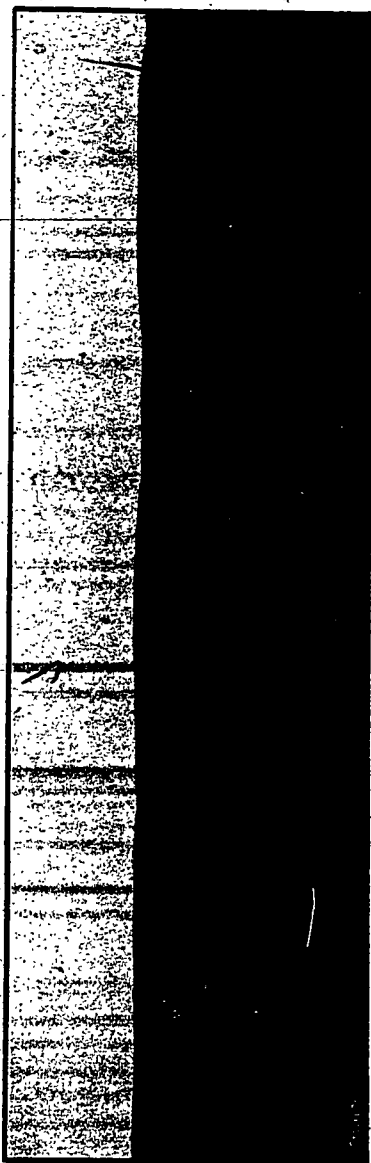
Owing to the favorable climatic conditions and rich natural grasses which furnish food to stock throughout the entire year the district is unexcelled, likewise, for stock raising purposes.

Yours truly,

LEVI HARKER.



Dumb Appreciation—A New Stock District Opened Up by Canal.



The Second Year's Crop.

Lethbridge, Alta., Oct. 3rd, 1901.

Messrs. The Canadian North West Irrigation Company,

Lethbridge, Alberta.

GENTLEMEN :

We settled on the Lethbridge division of the irrigation canal on March 28th, having just come from Ontario. We did not get started to break until April 15th. We put in fifty acres of crop, chiefly oats and flax. Got a fair crop of both oats and flax for the first year and the latter was not sown until about June 1st. We shall put in fifty acres more of crop next year. Thirty acres of it will be fall wheat, part of which is already sown.

Our potatoes have done well with irrigation. They are of excellent quality and prolific yield, especially for a sod crop. Single specimens weigh as high as two pounds two ounces. Have never worked on irrigated lands before, but find no difficulty in using the water.

Yours truly,

R. TIFFIN.

Magrath, Alta., Sept. 27th, 1901.

Messrs. The Canadian North West Irrigation Company,

Lethbridge, Alberta.

GENTLEMEN

Two years ago I came from Willard, Box Elder County, Utah, to Southern Alberta. The first year I worked on the irrigation canal for land and earned two hundred and forty acres. Since then I have undertaken to pay for six hundred and forty acres more. I broke ninety acres the first year and this year put in one hundred and twenty-five acres in crop, principally of oats and spring wheat. I also had some fall wheat, none of which heaved or got winter killed. Owing to my having to leave my land during the growing season I was unable to complete my ditches for the irrigation of the whole of it. That portion of the fall wheat that got irrigation yielded sixty-one bushels to the acre, while the average over all was forty bushels to the acre for sixty acres of this crop. My spring wheat, on new breaking,



threshed thirty bushels to the acre. Oats were an equally satisfactory crop. They were late sown and yielded fifty-three bushels to the acre and were a fine sample.

The land is good land and the water is easy to apply. The supply has been all we required. It has made a wonderful difference on meadows, as well as on grain crops.

Potatoes and other root crops have done well and I do not know of any better place in which to engage in general farming. We get good domestic coal for two dollars and seventy-five cents a ton.

Yours truly,

C. H. DUDLEY.

Stirling, Alta., Oct. 5th, 1901.

Messrs. The Canadian North West Irrigation Company,  
Lethbridge, Alberta.

GENTLEMEN:

I have taken off two crops of grain and roots since settling on the irrigated lands in the Stirling division. My grain has required little water, but it is a good thing to have it; as you are sure of a crop in a dry season when you can have the water just at the time the crop needs it. We have found the water of great benefit on our tame meadows and have cut a ton and a half to the acre of brome grass, Italian rye grass and timothy the first year of sowing on new broken prairie.

This land is unsurpassed for sugar beets. The heavy dews of the locality seem to keep them growing right along. Vegetables of all kinds grow in the highest perfection. Rhubarb, potatoes, cabbage, carrots, onions and beets have all done well, and melons and tomatoes have ripened splendidly.

The first year I had in eleven acres of good grain crop; this year I have thirty-five. The grain is a good sample, yields well, grows on a beautiful clean stock and does not rust or winter kill. My oats will thresh in the neighborhood of sixty bushels to the acre on second year land and on new breaking fully thirty-five.

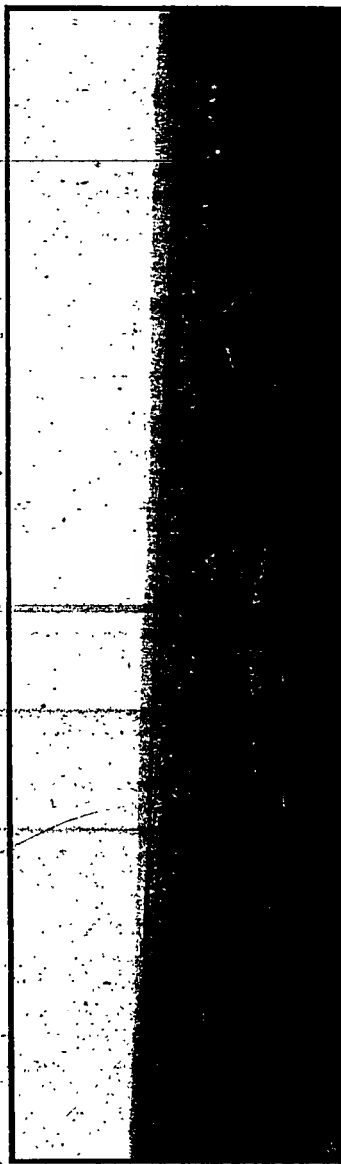
We have good shade and fruit trees coming on and all kinds of small fruits do extra well.

Yours truly,

C. D. ROMERIL.



The Beginning of a New Farm.



A Two Year Old Farm.

Lethbridge, Alta., July 20th, 1901.

The Canadian North West Irrigation Company,  
Lethbridge, Alberta.

GENTLEMEN :

As the settlers on the irrigated lands in the neighborhood of Lethbridge are bubbling over with high hopes of a bountiful harvest I trust I will be pardoned for wearing a two by four smile, as I was first to take and break a farm on the above land and as a matter of course took the risk of posing as wise or otherwise in my neighbors' estimation. I may here state that my neighbors' looks, plus the appearance of their crops, fully exculpate me from the "otherwise" imputation. I will now say a few words about myself and what I have done since I came to Lethbridge. In the spring of 1900 I came to Lethbridge from Ontario, having first made careful enquiries as to climate and general conditions. I found everything to my entire satisfaction with one exception—lack of moisture. This has been entirely remedied by a net-work of canals, ditches or creeks, whichever name suits the reader. They are at the settler's service and as a matter of fact he can laugh at the worst drouth that ever afflicted the North West Territories. I took up a quarter section on most liberal terms, broke between twenty and thirty acres, planted wheat, oats, potatoes, turnips, sugar beets, cabbage, etc., all of which look as if growing to order, and please bear in mind all growing on sod, no backsetting. I am positive my wheat will go thirty to thirty-five bushels to the acre. The climate will not fail to satisfy anyone who has lived in a zero country or a country where cattle are fed and stabled for five months. Here is the comparison in the month of January: Cattle and horses grazing out night and day, ladies riding bicycles and chickens basking in the sun. I will conclude by telling the reader that I am not paid for writing in this fashion; neither am I a compiler of letters. I am simply a farmer by choice, but my ideas go a trifle farther than my wire fence. I will give you one gratis. This is, that the conditions that prevail here preclude the possibility of our being either frost-smitten or afflicted by drouth.

Yours truly,

(Sgd.)

THOS. CHILDS.

Magrath, Alta., Oct. 5th, 1901.

Messrs. The Canadian North West Irrigation Company,  
Lethbridge, Alberta.

DEAR SIRs :

We moved to this district two years ago from irrigated lands in the States. We have one hundred and twenty-five acres under the ditch. We have been engaged principally in growing vegetables and fruits and have met with the best success. Our potatoes are excellent, being large, of good quality and are a heavy crop. We have grown all sorts of vegetables and have failed with none.

We have been growing trees for two years and have not even had the tips suffer from winter frost. These trees are from Ontario and Manitoba nurseries. In ornamental trees we have Manitoba maples, cottonwoods, willows, locusts, ash and Canadian poplars. In fruit trees we have apples, plums, cherries and peaches. These, as well as our grape vines, have all passed two winters successfully and are growing well. We are growing southern wood for the protection of these. Gooseberries, raspberries and currants have already given heavy yields.

Our grain crops have done equally well. The returns from grain are large for the labor involved. The land is easily broken and worked and produces well the first year. Have never seen such soil in my experience. The country is a fine one for either homeseekers or for those who have capital to invest.

Yours sincerely,

J. B. MERRILL.

Lethbridge, Alta., Oct. 3rd, 1901.

The Canadian North West Irrigation Company,  
Lethbridge, Alberta.

GENTLEMEN :

I came from Northern Minnesota to settle on a farm of irrigable land on March 28th of this year. My crop this year consists of four acres of oats, six acres of turnips, besides potatoes and other vegetables. My oats have yielded seventy-five bushels to the acre, my turnips are a fine crop

and were sown broadcast on sod and my potatoes are as good a crop for yield and quality as can be grown any place. The land is the best I ever saw or worked on. It is rich, loose and mellow.

I expect to break my whole eighty acres next year and shall put in oats, wheat, barley and potatoes. The water is easily put on the land.

Have sold part of my oats already at forty-four cents a bushel. The market for all kinds of farm products is good. Eggs are worth from twenty to thirty cents a dozen, and good butter is twenty-five cents a pound.

Have had better health here than I have ever had before and the climate is all that could be desired. Fuel of good quality in the shape of semi-bituminous coal can be had within short hauling distance at two dollars and seventy-five cents per ton.

Yours sincerely,

W. H. FURNALD.

Stirling, Alta., Sept. 3rd, 1901.

Messrs. The Canadian North West Irrigation Company,  
Lethbridge, Alberta.

GENTLEMEN :

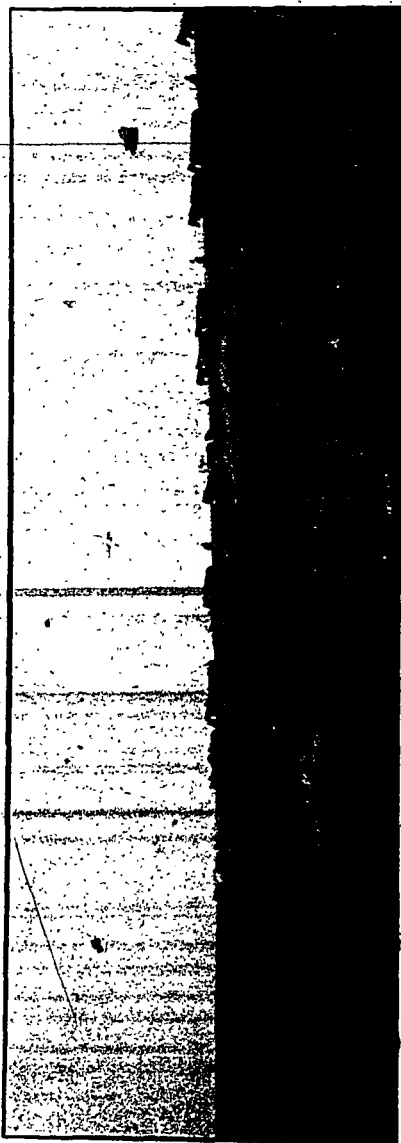
It is with pleasure that I reply to your enquiries regarding the success that has attended our farming operations at Stirling.

The quality of our crops has been of the finest and our experience is that very light irrigation will insure abundant quantity and perfect quality. The soil is capable of producing a large range of agricultural products and we find it well suited for irrigation, with no tendency to "bake."

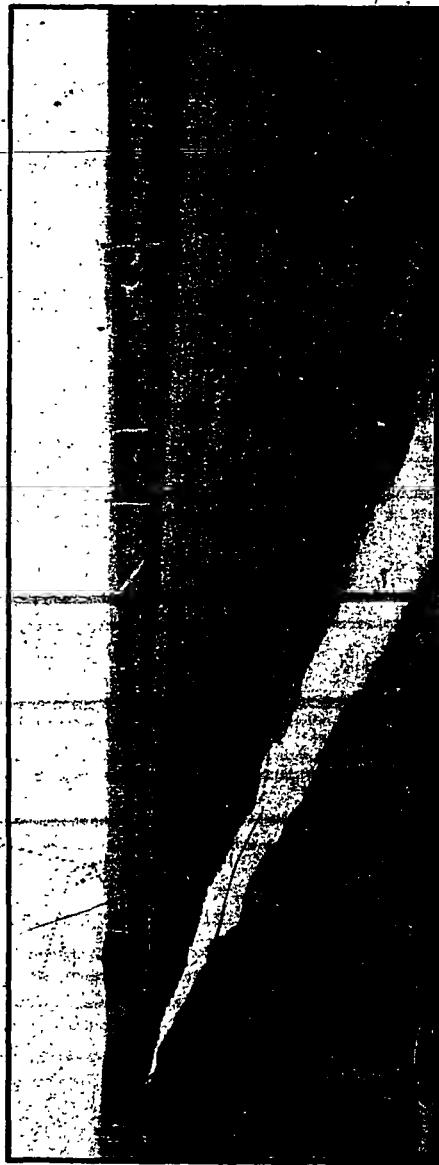
Sugar beets have been grown in abundance and of excellent quality, potatoes also; and I have personally had much success with the white navy, or California bean, a few rows I planted on trial yielding over one hundred pounds of the finest quality.

Roots of all kinds; cabbage, cauliflower, tomatoes, radishes, lettuce, etc., have all done well.

Last year I planted about fifty hardy fruit trees, one hundred currant, gooseberry, raspberry and blackberry bushes, and these are now all in first class condition and the small fruits have yielded abundantly. The luxury of eating ripe watermelons raised on our own land has been enjoyed by us. The trials made with alfalfa and brome grass have been quite satisfactory.



Breaking the Prairie.



Two Years Ago An Unpeopled Prairie.

I voice the opinion of the community when I say that we are firmly of opinion that, with irrigation, mixed farming will meet with complete success and having an excellent market for all our produce at our very door we can heartily recommend the country to all who are looking for good homes.

Yours truly,  
(Sgd.) THEODORE BRANDLEY.

Lethbridge, Alta., Oct. 8th, 1901.

Messrs. The Canadian North West Irrigation Company,  
Lethbridge, Alberta.

GENTLEMEN :

We purchased last spring a hundred and sixty acres under the Lethbridge division of your canal and have broken and cropped a part of it this season. Our oats have yielded forty-seven and a half bushels to the acre of clean, heavy grain, and are at present worth forty-three cents per bushel. In view of our crops, forty acres in all having been grown on new broken prairie, we consider that our outlay in labor and money has been very profitable.

We had a small piece of wheat which turned out satisfactorily and some potatoes which are a very fine crop.

Yours respectfully,

LETHBRIDGE CARTAGE CO.

Magrath, Alta., July 16th, 1901.

The Canadian North West Irrigation Company,  
Lethbridge, Alberta.

GENTLEMEN :

Having resided at Magrath since the month of May, 1899, at which time the settlement was commenced, I know that you will be interested in learning what success has attended me, as well as a great many others, and I may say the entire community, who have come and settled here since our town was organized, viz.: May, 1899.

In the fall of that year the population of our town numbered all told 250 people; to-day, according to the late census taken, we number between 500 and 600 souls.

In the month of October, 1899, I broke four acres of sod and sowed wheat on it, which yielded me 30 bushels per acre. In the spring of 1900 I broke and put in on the sod ten acres of wheat and ten acres of oats, the former yielding 25 and the latter 42 bushels per acre. I also the same season raised 200 bushels of potatoes, one ton of cabbage, two tons of beets and one ton of carrots, from three-quarters of an acre of land, some of the roots weighing 21 pounds each. I have in cultivation this year, 1901, under my irrigation canal, 20 acres of fall wheat sown in September, 1900, on the sod, 10 acres wheat sown in November, 1900, on land plowed in 1899. This grain stands at least four feet high and is now in blossom. I also have 20 acres of oats sown on second year's plowing beginning to head out, 10 acres of spring wheat just in the bud standing three feet high and 10 acres of oats sown late this spring now standing two and a half feet high. I sowed this spring 10 acres of land with timothy and clover seed, which have made a growth of two feet and are now in a good, healthy condition.

This is what I have been able to do under the conditions above mentioned and the results obtained are not confined to myself alone but are general, and I may say in some instances have been surpassed by others.

I believe from the above facts I can truthfully say that this and the surrounding districts surpass anything as a grain and vegetable producing country that I have ever seen. I can therefore cheerfully recommend the Lethbridge district to persons of limited means who may be seeking homes.

Yours very truly,

R. RASMUSSEN.





## WHAT WE THINK



Lethbridge, Alberta. Oct. 26th, 1902.

The Canadian North West Irrigation Company is much gratified to be in a position to place the foregoing statements before homeseekers.

While the Company has secured considerable credit in connection with the inauguration and development of its Irrigation Canal System, it feels that the greatest measure of praise is due the settlers, who have in every case taken hold so earnestly and as a consequence have been able to show such gratifying results in the short time they have occupied lands under the canal.

Pioneering or moving into a new country, and the Canadian North West is still a very young country, even under the most favorable conditions has its drawbacks. Compared, however, with the difficulties that faced the first settlers in the wooded parts of this continent in the early years of the century just closed, pioneering in "the West" is a pleasant pastime.

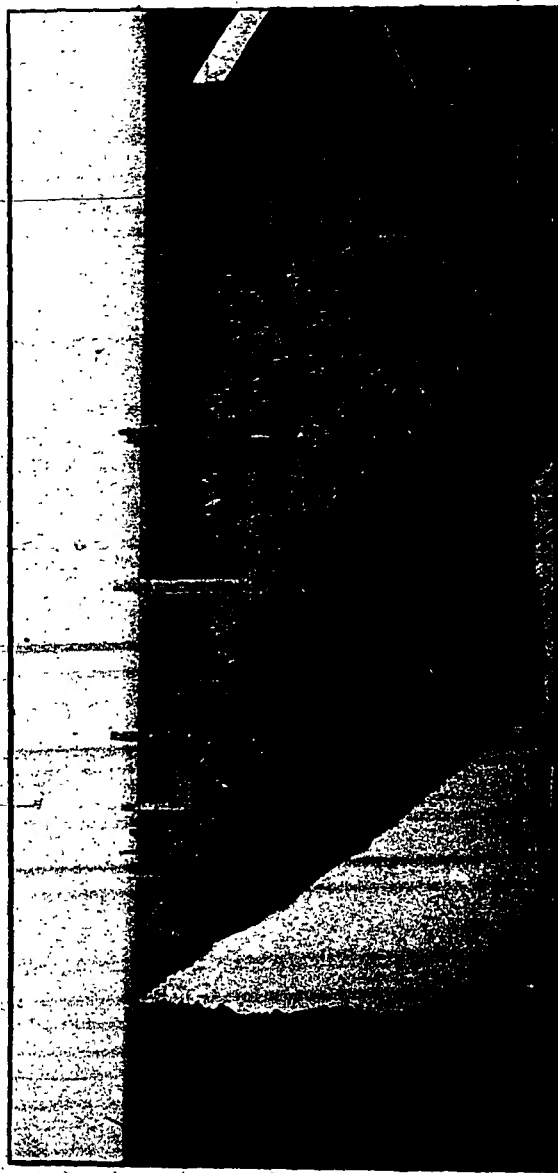
The Canadian North West is a very large country, and we believe that there is no portion of America that has the same attractions to offer as our North West. It is capable of supplying homes to millions of industrious people. Its laws are good and especially well administered.

The operations of The Canadian North West Irrigation Company are conducted in the South Western part of this country—that part lying North of the Montana Boundary and against the Eastern base of the Rocky Mountains.

The climate is very fine, the soil unsurpassed, and with the crops insured against drouth by means of irrigation, rapid success must attend the efforts of every industrious farmer.

To those who contemplate moving from the East we wish to extend a





Water Insures a Bountiful Harvest.

few words of caution. Do not expect to find the same comforts in a young country from the moment you start on a new farm as you left behind in settlements in many cases over one hundred years old. It takes energy and time to produce home comforts, but a few years here does the work that took almost a century to accomplish in what are now the highly prosperous farming communities of the East.

In no country old or young are perfect conditions to be found, so do not expect to find them here. We simply state the belief shared in by our present settlers, that our irrigated lands, situated in a specially favored section of this very large country, offer most attractive locations for homes to good, industrious people.

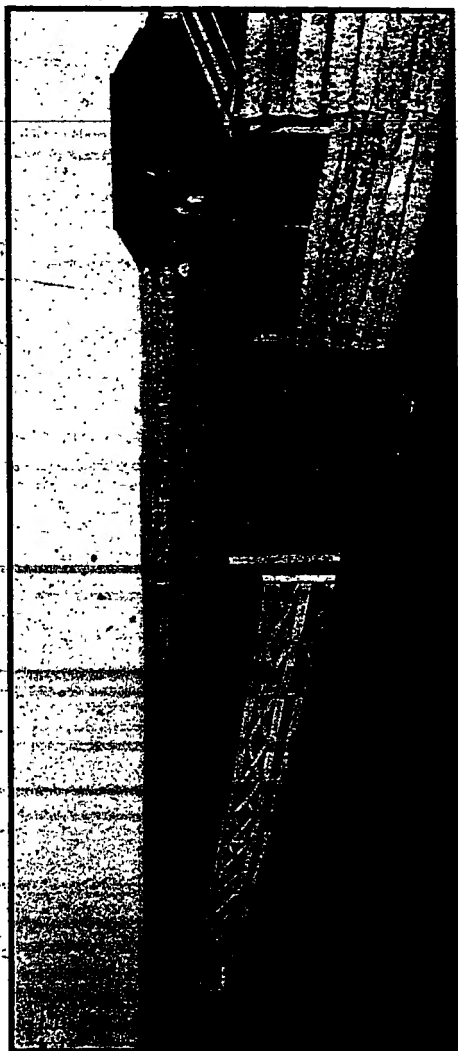
A prominent feature not to be overlooked by the homeseeker is, that development and consequent increase in land values is much more rapid in irrigated districts than elsewhere, simply because speculation in irrigated properties is impossible owing to the annual water rental. No one can afford to pay this rental and allow the land to remain idle. Every purchaser of land must cultivate and improve the property, thereby adding to the wealth of the district. It is a notable fact that a vast amount of speculation takes place in the farming lands of all new settlements outside of irrigated districts towards which immigration is moving. Large areas are bought up and held for sale at high prices awaiting the development of the locality by the labor of the actual settler.

A great deal has been said about our favored climate, all of which is quite true. In summer the air is delightful, with cool and invigorating nights. It is customary to look for a cold rain or even a sprinkling of snow in September, lasting for three or four days, with the temperature occasionally running down to freezing. These September storms are cold and disagreeable; beyond that they do no damage. Later we have beautiful autumnal weather lasting until well into December. The winters on the whole are mild. We have at times, however, very cold weather, but it does not last for more than a few days at any one time.

No locality on the American continent can boast of a greater amount of sunshine in each year.

Other advantages possessed by the Company's properties are the exceptional railway and other facilities which they enjoy. In most new countries settlers are frequently far distant from railways and places having educational and social advantages; but our lands immediately surround Lethbridge, Stirling, Magrath and Raymond, each of which places is on one or more railroads and has direct communication with both Eastern and Western markets. Lethbridge has a population of 2,500 and is the point where the famous Galt Mines, which supply Manitoba and the Territories with bituminous coal, are situate. It presents good opportunities for the investment of capital and the demand for laborers is always steady. The towns of Stirling and Magrath are two years old. Each possesses a population of about 600 and offers settlers the advantage of good and well equipped schools for the education of their children. Raymond is a young town recently established on the St. Mary's River Railway between Magrath and Stirling and is the point at which Mr. Jesse Knight has contracted to erect a beet sugar factory. Mr. Knight's reputation for energy and ability is well known and there is no doubt but that under his fostering care Raymond will soon develop into a large and important centre.





▲ Prosperous Home—The Result of Two Years' Labor.